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CULTURAL RESOURCES INVESTIGATION ALONG THE VERMILLION
RIVER AT HASTINGS MINNESOTA(U) SCIENCE MUSEUM OF
MINNESOTA ST PAUL G J HUDAK 07 JAN 77 DACH37-77-N-0070

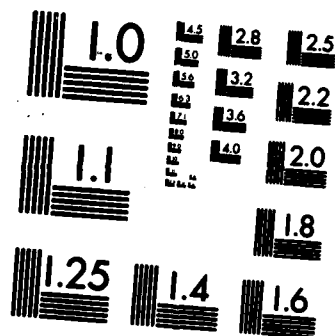
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CULTURAL RESOURCES INVESTIGATION
ALONG THE VERMILLION RIVER AT
HASTINGS, MINNESOTA

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St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers
Purchase Order No. DACW37-77M-0070

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St. Paul, Minnesota
January 7, 1977

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19. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number) The Science Museum of Minnesota conducted a three-day cultural resources field investigation of a proposed floodway channel along the Vermillion River at Hastings, Minnesota. The objective was to locate and define any existing prehistoric and/or historic sites or representative cultural materials, within the construction right-of-way. The lack of evidence for cultural resources, as represented by the lack of recoverable artifacts in test units and surface collecting, leads to a conclusion of non-adverse impact by the proposed floodway construction.					
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In agreement with the St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, The Science Museum of Minnesota conducted a three-day cultural resources field investigation of a proposed floodway channel site along the Vermillion River at Hastings, Minnesota. In addition to this, two days were spent on a literature search of the area, and the preparation of this report. The objective of the investigation was to locate and define any existing prehistoric and/or historic sites or representative cultural materials, within the construction right-of-way, and to recommend appropriate future action based on the results of the investigation.

The field survey and testing program consisted of placing five formal test excavation units (1 m x 1 m or 39.4 in. x 39.4 in.) within the floodplain, informally shovel testing along the riverbank, and conducting a surface survey of the floodplain right-of-way.

The surface survey, on foot, was made under good soil visibility conditions; rye had been planted in approximate 30 cm (12 in.) rows and was only 10-20 cm (4-8 in.) high at the time of the survey. According to standard surface collecting procedures, the surface survey was conducted in 10 m (approximate 40 foot) intervals, running the length of the floodplain. Results of the surface survey were negative in that no cultural materials were recovered.

Informal shovel testing along the south side of the Vermillion River was done in approximate 50 meter (roughly 200 foot) intervals. Again, no cultural materials were evident.

Formal test units 1 through 4 (see enclosed Map) were sterile; no cultural materials were recovered. These units were excavated by 10 cm (4 in.) levels, with dirt screened through a ¼ in mesh screen. Soils were apparently floodplain till, containing intermittent layers of gravel deposits. Test units 1 and 2 were extended to a depth of 150 cm (approximately 60 in). Units 3 and 4 were excavated to 100 cm (39.4 in). Soil probes extended from the floors of these units indicated floodplain soils extending more than two meters below ground surfaces.

Test unit 5 was placed within what appears to be an historic structure foundation. Cut limestone blocks, placed in approximate 50 foot x 20 foot long dimensions, comprise the foundations. Historic artifacts were recovered from this test unit, between 0 - 25 cm (0 - 10 in), and consisted of historic glazed ceramic sherds and fragments of broken glass. This material as well as all field notes and photographs, is accessioned at SMM under Accession No. A76:11.

Local informants are under the opinion that these foundations represent the site of the Black Forest Hotel, which was supposedly in operation during the early days of the Peavey Mill (located one half mile down the Vermillion River from the foundation site). An attempt was made to confirm the existence of this hotel by several methods. The local historian for Hastings, Hazel Jacobson, was contacted for possible pertinent information including photographs, literature references, and names of other local informants. She checked the early maps of the

area, one drawn in 1856, the other in 1867, with negative results. She also searched for photographs of the site location, and though there is one of the general area, no positive identification of the Black Forest Hotel could be made.

Records at the Dakota County Historical Museum were checked for dates that could pinpoint the time period of existence for the Hotel. This too, was unsuccessful. Microfilm records at the Minnesota Historical Society, showing original plats for Dakota County for the years 1896, 1914 and 1928, were also checked. Landowners for the site were identified, but no records for their occupations (as are sometimes found), were included.

In conclusion, the course followed was to submit a site survey form to the Archaeology Division of the Minnesota Historical Society identifying the foundation remains as the site of the Black Forest Hotel, by general consensus only, with no supporting documentation. The least they can do will be to file the information as is, attaching no significance beyond the fact of the probable existence of an early historic hotel at the probable location as recorded. Maximum action on their part (MHS) would be to locate unquestionable evidence determining the existence of the hotel, and to attach significance as a historic site. Due to the nature of the remains and the apparent lack of recoverable documentation, this would be unlikely.

In addition to the above searches, site files maintained by the State Archaeologist and the Minnesota Historical Society showed no prehistoric

or historic sites at or immediately adjacent to the proposed floodway development site.

This lack of evidence for cultural resources, as represented by the lack of recoverable artifacts in test units and surface collecting, leads to a conclusion of non-adverse impact by the proposed floodplain construction/alteration, on possible cultural resources.

The only consideration to be made is that there conceivably may be deeply buried prehistoric materials under what is today the floodplain, due to naturally changing river channels, in turn caused by frequent flooding and erosional soils build up. The presence of gravel deposits at various levels within the floodplain silt deposits may be indicative of former channel banks or bottoms. It is recommended that any extensive excavation (over 1½ m deep) be field checked for evidence of prehistoric activity. If such evidence is found, further investigation for cultural resource determination will be necessary.

APPENDIX A

**Minnesota Historical Society
Site Survey Form**

Minnesota Historical Society
* SURVEY FORM

COUNTY: Dakota
COMMUNITY: Hastings

Place Name: HISTORIC Black Forest Hotel
and/or COMMON

Place Address: Southwest portion of junction of Highways 61 and 47,
Hastings, Minnesota.

Classification: ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Building ☐ Structure
☐ Object ☐ Figure ☐ Event

Ownership Status: ☒ Private ☐ Public ☐ Both
Public Acquisition: ☐ In process ☒ Being considered

Status: ☐ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐ Work in progress

Accessible: ☒ Yes, restricted ☐ Yes, unrestricted ☐ No

Present Use:

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Park
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious
<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific
<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - Ruins

Owner of property: Name Star Realty Company
Address 407 Vermillion
City/Township Hastings, Minnesota

DESCRIPTION--Overall Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed

INTEGRITY:

<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original site
<input type="checkbox"/> Moved/Date _____

Remarks:

Minnesota Historical Society

SURVEY FORM

COUNTY: Dakota
COMMUNITY: Hastings

Place Name: HISTORIC Black Forest Hotel
and/or COMMON

DESCRIPTION--Site Surroundings.

☐ Open land ☐ Densely built up ☐ Residential
☐ Woodland ☐ Commercial ☒ Other
☐ Scattered buildings ☐ Industrial

Remarks: Site is adjacent to developed commercial properties and open land.

DESCRIPTION--Environment.

☒ Urban isolated ☐ Urban/hostile group ☐ Rural/compatible group
☐ Urban/compatible group ☐ Rural isolated ☐ Rural/hostile group
☐ Other

Remarks:

DESCRIPTION--Related Buildings and Landscape Features.

☐ Carriage house ☐ Quarters ☐ Barn ☐ Stable ☐ Privy
☐ Fences ☐ Cistern ☐ Original/formal gardens ☐ Statuary
☐ Shop ☐ Garage ☐ Shed ☐ Gazebo ☐ Cemetery ☐ Greenhouse
Other: Vermillion River

SIGNIFICANCE

Date: Factual/Estimated

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Theme(s): Unknown

Significance: Site may have significance in relationship to the history of the Peavey Mill, located one half mile downstream from the site.

Level of Significance: ☒ Local ☐ State ☐ Federal

Major bibliographical references: NONE

Geographical Data:

Acreage of the site:

Surveyor/Date/Comments: G. J. Hudak 12/22/76

Minnesota Historical Society
SURVEY FORM

COUNTY: Dakota
COMMUNITY: Hastings

Place Name: HISTORIC Black Forest Hotel
and/or COMMON

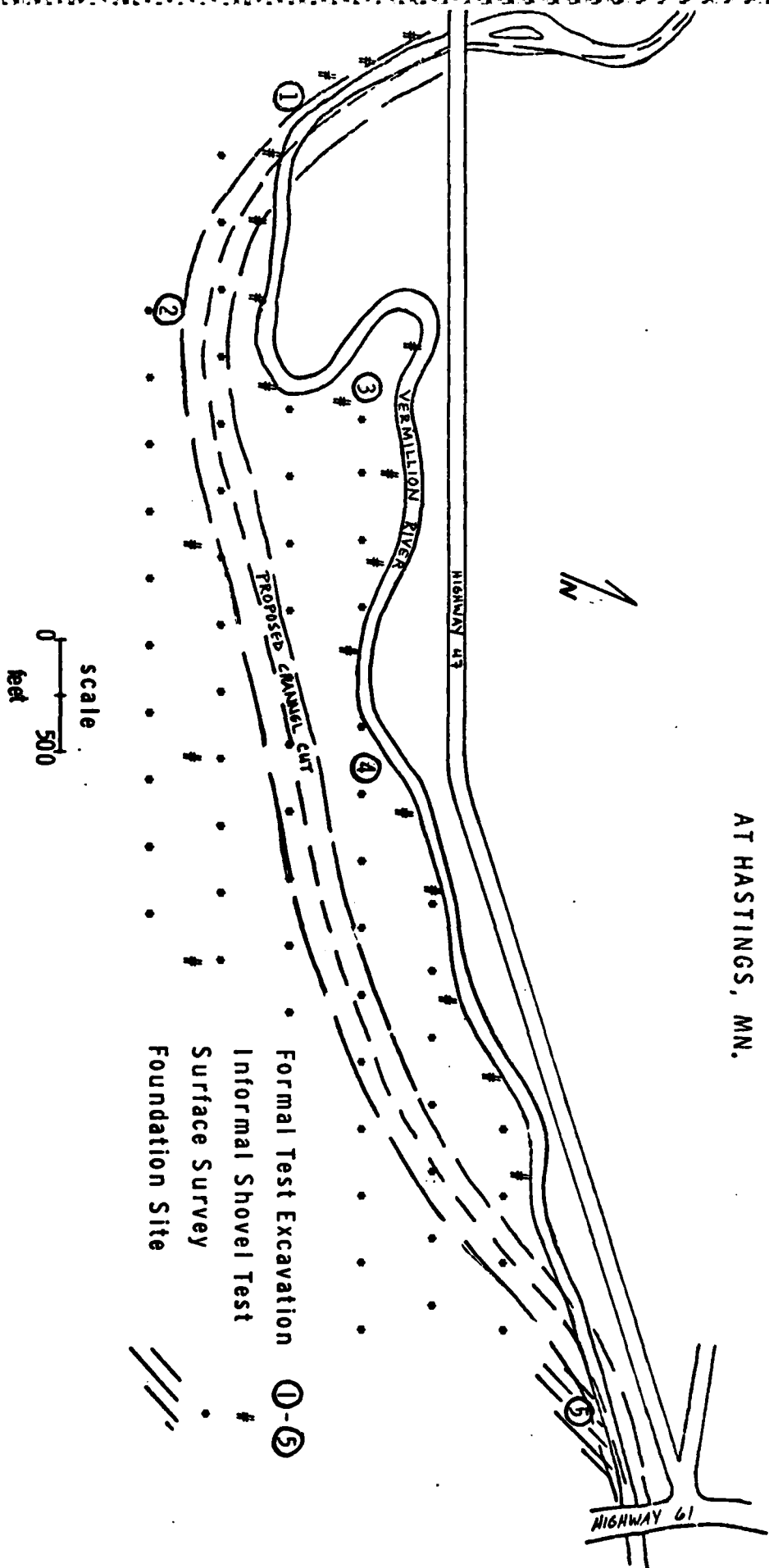
Place Address: Southwest portion of junction of Highways 61 and 47,
Hastings, Minnesota.

Photo #
A76:11:1

View/Direction
Looking South



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY ALONG THE VERMILLION RIVER AT HASTINGS, MN.



END

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